

Amendment B
USSN 10/724,446
April 11, 2005
Reply to Office Action of January 10, 2005
Page 6 of 9

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Official Action mailed January 10, 2005 has been carefully considered.

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application, as amended, are respectfully requested. Independent claims 21 and 30 have been amended to overcome the Examiner's formal objections thereto, and dependent claim 22 has been amended to be commensurate with the scope of independent claim 21 from which it depends. No new matter has been added to the subject application as a result of the changes made thereto.

Turning to the rejections on the art, claim 21 stands rejected under 35 USC § 103 as being unpatentable over Cyras et al. in view of House et al. Applicants respectfully submit that this rejection is in error.

The Examiner points to Cyras et al. as teaching a method for detecting expansion cards that includes detecting a card being inserted into a slot, determining the type of card using PC Card signal lines, and enabling an IC card (Smart Card) reader logic or PC Card logic when the type of card is determined. The Examiner points to col. 5, line 61 through col. 6, line 28, to support this assertion as to the teachings of Cyras et al.

The Examiner concedes that Cyras et al. does not teach a MUX logic providing communication between the cards and bus controller logic.

The Examiner points to House et al. as teaching a method of employing a bus extender that uses MUX logic to provide communication between bus controller and peripheral devices (fig. 3). The Examiner concludes that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time of the invention, to modify Cyras et al., so that a MUX logic is used to provide

Amendment B
USSN 10/724,446
April 11, 2005
Reply to Office Action of January 10, 2005
Page 7 of 9

communication, as taught by House et al., so as be able to allow efficient signal transfer between the peripheral device and the bus.

Independent claim 21 has been amended to provide a method for detecting and operating an expansion card that includes “detecting that a Smart Card is inserted into a socket using conventional PC Card signal lines; enabling Smart Card reader logic to read said Smart Card; and enabling MUX logic to provide communication between said Smart Card and bus controller logic using conventional PC Card communication protocols.” (Claim 21, as amended). Thus, Applicants’ invention of independent claim 21 now reads on detecting and operating a Smart Card that includes MUX logic to provide communication between a Smart Card and bus controller that uses conventional PC card communication protocols. It is respectfully submitted that none of these limitations is provided in any combination of Cyras et al. and House et al.

For example, as depicted in Applicants’ invention of Figure 3, Smart Card sensing logic 30A and/or Smart Card reader logic 34A can communicate with the bus controller logic 36A using conventional PC Card communication protocols, which may include, for example, CardBus protocols or conventional PCMCIA protocols. These features permit, for example, integration of Smart Card operability and conventional PC Card (e.g., 16 and 32 bit PCMCIA cards and 32 bit CardBus cards) operability while providing bus communication using conventional PC Card communication protocols. As the Examiner can appreciate, these features allow the use of conventional bus circuitry while offering Smart Card compatibility without requiring additional circuitry and/or retooling costs. Nowhere does any combination of Cyras et al. or House et al. disclose or suggest an integrated controller as depicted in Figure 3 (or the control methodology associated therewith) to permit communication between logic sets 34A,

Amendment B
USSN 10/724,446
April 11, 2005
Reply to Office Action of January 10, 2005
Page 8 of 9

30A and 36A using conventional PC Card communication protocols. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the Examiner's rejection of claim 21 as being unpatentable under 35 USC § 103 over Cyras et al. in view of House et al. is in error, and should be withdrawn.

Claims 23 and 30-33 stand rejected under 35 USC § 103 as being unpatentable over Cyras et al. in view of House et al. Applicants respectfully submit that this rejection is also in error.

As an initial matter, claim 23 depends directly from Applicants' invention of independent claim 21, and thus must be read as incorporating the limitations of claim 21 (35 USC § 112, 4th paragraph). The deficiencies of Cyras et al. and House et al. vis-à-vis Applicants' invention of independent claim 21 are discussed above in detail.

Claim 30 has been amended to provide an integrated controller for reading a plurality of expansion cards that includes "first logic sets for detecting and operating a first expansion card that complies with the specification other than a PC Card specification; and second logic set for detecting an operating a second expansion card that complies with a PC Card specification... ." (Claim 30, as amended).

As is evidenced by the Examiner's indication of the allowability of claim 24, nowhere does the combination of Cyras et al. and House et al. disclose or suggest an integrated controller that includes logic sets for detecting and operating a first expansion card that complies with a specification other than a PC Card specification and logic sets for detecting and operating a second expansion card that complies with a PC Card specification.

Thus, is it respectfully submitted that no combination of Cyras et al. in view of House et al. could achieve or render obvious Applicants' invention of independent claim 30, and thus, it is

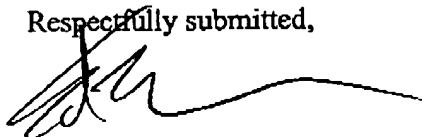
Amendment B
USSN 10/724,446
April 11, 2005
Reply to Office Action of January 10, 2005
Page 9 of 9

respectfully submitted that the Examiner's rejection of claims 30-33 as being unpatentable over Cyras et al. in view of House et al. is in error, and should be withdrawn.

The Examiner's indication of the allowability of claims 24-29 is noted, with thanks. However, it is respectfully submitted that all currently pending claims, including claims 21-33, are in condition for allowance. Thus, early allowance is earnestly solicited.

In the event the Examiner deems personal contact desirable in disposition of this application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call the undersigned attorney at (603) 668-6560. In the event any additional fees are payable, please charge them to our Deposit Account No. 50-2121.

Respectfully submitted,



Edmund P. Pfleger
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 41,252